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Possib. of Inter-Com. Fighting and of Further Turkish Interven. in Cyprus

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

CIA/DCI/IAM 754117

Office of the Director

17 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
(National Security Affairs)

SUBJECT : Intelligence Alert Memorandum: Possibility of
Inter-Communal Fighting and of Further Turkish
Intervention in Cyprus

1. An airlift of Turkish Cypriot refugees from the British base on Cyprus is scheduled to begin tomorrow. We are concerned that the angry response of Greek Cypriots to the release might result in new intercommunal fighting and possibly provoke a violent reaction by mainland Turkish forces on Cyprus.
2. Greek Cypriot demonstrators broke through the perimeter defense of Akrotiri today following two days of orderly demonstrations throughout the Greek Cypriot sector. The Greek Cypriot demonstrators succeeded in blocking the road that the refugees must travel to reach the embarkation point for the airlift to the Turkish mainland. The demonstrators were met by British troops who used fire hoses and tear gas in an effort to break up the mob. One Greek Cypriot was killed when he was struck by a vehicle. So far, there is no evidence that Greek Cypriots are taking out their wrath on the approximately 12,000 Turkish Cypriots who continue to live in Greek controlled areas of the island.
3. The potential for trouble will magnify if the Greek Cypriots prevent the airlift from beginning or if clashes develop between Greek and Turkish Cypriots elsewhere on the island. Ankara might attack towards Akrotiri with some of the 34,000 troops estimated now on the island to protect the evacuation process. They might also consider landing fresh troops near the British base area. No sizeable Turkish fleet has been detected in the area. Our judgment at this point, however, is that while demonstrations will continue they will not be of sufficient scale to stop the airlift. The potential for trouble elsewhere on the island is somewhat greater. Both Cypriot communities are well armed, although the Greek Cypriot National Guard will probably be deployed in an effort to prevent serious incidents. Clerides and Denktash met today as

scheduled in the negotiations for a Cyprus settlement. No public comment was made on the refugee problem.

4. This judgment has been coordinated among analysts in CIA, DIA, State and NSA.

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W. E. Colby
Director